

President's reply.—You first spoke about the admission of Ezhava boys in to certain schools. Arrangements are already in progress in this matter. Either the schools will be thrown open or they will be removed to convenient sites.

Member.—Our men should also be on the committees constituted for submitting recommendations to throw open schools to all classes of His Highness' subjects.

President.—The matter will be noted.

As regards grant-in-aid schools also, an investigation will be conducted as to whether there are any such schools not open to all classes, and if there are, the necessary action will be taken to remove the disabilities of the communities in that respect.

As regards notice boards prohibiting the free passage of all classes along public roads, I have already given my reply.

143. Abolition of untouchability and removal of boards prohibiting passage through public roads.

Mr. N. R. Krishnan (Member, Nominated) deplored the disabilities to which his community was subjected on account of unapproachability even at the present day and said that, with the spread of education among them and the enjoyment of increased privileges in other directions, those disabilities were being most keenly felt by them. The prohibition imposed upon them in the matter of freely using the public roads opened with the funds in the State treasury, to which his community also contributed, could not be construed in any other light than that of imprisonment. The Member said that the treatment accorded by Europeans to Indian emigrants from India to Kenya would perhaps give some idea of the sufferings of his community. An old Royal Proclamation had declared public roads to be free to all subjects and the springing up of notice boards prohibiting the use of certain roads by certain classes of subjects was not only surprising, but also meaningless. Their condition was the more pitiable, especially when it was remembered that those very roads were open to Mahomedans and Christians. Both Hindus and non-Hindus had urged the removal of such a monstrous disability. The Member suggested the appointment of a committee to enquire into and improve their condition and prayed for the issue of a Proclamation abolishing unapproachability.

President's reply.—As I already replied to a previous speaker, there is no objection to any class of people passing through highways and other public roads. There are, however, certain minor restrictions imposed by custom in a very few localities. Regarding the removal of notice boards, the Dewan has given a reply and I am not in a position to add anything to that reply.

144. Needs of the Kalkulam taluk.

Mr. Aiyappan Pillai Matevan Pillai (Member, Kalkulam taluk) represented that the Government in as early as 1079 accepted the responsibility for imparting primary education to all boys and girls in the State. From the reply to an interpellation in the Legislative Council it was understood that there were 55 *pakuthies* in the whole State which had no primary schools. The Education Expenditure Committee had suggested in their report that there should be two departmental schools in a revenue *pakuthi*, one for boys and another for girls, and that if private efforts were not forthcoming, Government should step in and open schools. If that recommendation of the committee was to be acted upon by the Government, many schools would have to be opened in the *pakuthies* of the Kalkulam taluk. There were no departmental schools either for boys or girls in the *pakuthies* of Kadiyapattanam, Kappiyara and Mekkode. In the Kotanallur *pakuthi* there was only one departmental school for girls and the building in which it was located had been constructed out of funds jointly contributed by the people and the Government. The site for another building for a boys' school had already been purchased and the foundation laid. As the people were not in a position to raise funds to complete the building, both the boys and girls of the village had now to be educated in the girls' school. If the Government could not complete the building for the local boys' school, the building in which the girls' school was housed might be placed at the

disposal of the local inhabitants for the boys' school, a separate building being put up for the girls' school for which they were ready to contribute half the cost.

The Member then submitted the inconvenience caused by converting Malayalam schools into Tamil schools. With special reference to the school at Thuckalai it was explained that the people of Thuckalai agreed to raise funds and construct a building, because the school which was originally situated inside the Fort of Padmanabhapuram was overcrowded and because the boys living in Thuckalai found it difficult to go to their houses for their noon-day meal. When they put up the school-building, it was intended for a Malayalam school. The change recently effected by converting that Malayalam school into a Tamil school had placed their boys at a great disadvantage. The Member, therefore, prayed that both Malayalam and Tamil might be taught in the school and that the Government should not persist in such a policy in the future as it was bound to cause serious inconvenience to the children whose mother-tongue was Malayalam.

The Member then said that minor irrigation works were claiming increased attention at the hands of the Government, and that Kodayar water was insufficient to meet the full requirements of cultivation in South Travancore at present. He requested that the dam be raised and sufficient water made available, and that enhanced grants be made for minor irrigation works in the budgets for future years. He next spoke about the delay in the local Division Office in according sanction to the estimates prepared and sent from the sub-division office and expressed the hope that the delay could be avoided, if the necessary scrutiny and modification could be made in the Division Office itself and the estimate sanctioned for the revised amount. He then expatiated on the advantages secured by the formation of irrigation block and central boards. He also spoke about the deplorable condition of the roads in the Kalkulam taluk and said that the opinion expressed by some of the members of the northern taluks to the effect that the Southern Division was better served with roads would have been different, if they had taken into consideration the differences in the agricultural conditions of the two localities and the absence of water-ways in South Travancore. He also pointed out that the tax paid by the people of South Travancore was very heavy, and that, while the average rate was Rs. 9-1-9 in the Tinnevely District and Rs. 1-19-4 in the Kottayam Division, it was as high as Rs. 16-0-0 in South Travancore. When those facts were considered, it could be seen that the cry for more roads was legitimate. The condition of the following agricultural roads was in his opinion unsatisfactory and he therefore prayed for their improvement.

1. Perumchilampu road. In regard to this road, the Member requested that the allotment sanctioned in the budget might be fully spent during the current year and the bridge over the Tacharakottu river might be taken up and completed at least next year.

2. Road from Thuckalai-Kulasekharam road, 2nd mile to Padmanabhapuram-Tiruvattar road. That was a ryots' road cut by the people, and the Member requested that it might be taken over for maintenance by the Government. He also prayed that the necessary culverts might be constructed, as also a bridge over Valliar.

3. Road from the 2nd mile, Kulasekharam-Tripparappu road to Tiruvarampu. The Member prayed for that road being converted into a cartable road.

4. The road from the 7th mile of the Monday market—Tiruvattar road to Kumarankudi. The Member prayed that that road be repaired.

He also requested that the following roads used for removing timber from the hills by means of country carts be metalled and repaired and increased grants given for their maintenance :—1. Tadikkarankonam-Mekkode road. 2. Mekkode-Thuckalai road. 3. Mekkode-Kulasekharam road. 4. Mekkode-Verkilampu road. 5. Verkilampu-Azhakiamandapam road.

President's reply.—The Tovala Taluk Member has already pointed out the need for the immediate constitution of the central irrigation board. This board has not been constituted, since all the block boards have not yet been formed. Orders will be issued for the early formation of the central board.

You state that more primary schools are necessary for Kalkulam. Now, in the Kalkulam taluk, there are 5 departmental vernacular middle schools for males, 26 departmental primary schools for males, 2 private aided vernacular middle schools for males, 76 aided primary schools for males, and 8 unaided primary schools for males. Besides these, there are 3 departmental primary schools and 7 aided primary schools for girls. A report will be called for from the Director of Public Instruction on your suggestion.

As regards the Kotanallur boys' school building, your representation that one-half of the cost should be borne by Government is noted for consideration.

As regards the delay in the sanction of estimates referred to by you, arrangements will be made to minimise such delay.

About the conversion of Malayalam schools into Tamil schools, what the G. O. on the subject says is that, if the majority of students in any school are Tamils in the proportion of 2 to 1, such an institution may be converted into a Tamil school. In certain localities there would be separate Tamil schools and Malayalam schools, while in certain other localities both Malayalam and Tamil would be taught in one and the same school, there being separate sections for the purpose. In Tamil schools in the Tamil-speaking areas, Malayalam is taught as a second language in Classes III and IV of primary schools. The Government are following a principle and cannot go against the provisions of the G. O. in this respect.

Re. the Perumchilampu road, some work has been done this year and the Chief Engineer says that the whole work will be completed within another year.

Re. the bridge you have referred to, an estimate is under preparation.

With respect to the Tatikkaranonam-Mekkode road, the maintenance is gradually rising. It has risen to Rs. 140 per mile this year. In regard to the Mekkode-Thuckalai road, Government have an estimate ready and work will be started next year. As regards the Mekkode-Kulasekharam road, the cost of maintenance is Rs. 200. Orders will be issued by the Chief Engineer to the Division Officer to keep these roads in good condition.

145. Some pressing problems for the solution of the P. W. D., Land Revenue, Agricultural and Educational Departments.

Mr. Kanakku Sankaranarayanan Krishnan (Member, Tiruvalla taluk) dwelt at length on the responsibility of the P. W. D. and the Government to improve the means of communication in the State, and complained about the indifference shown in the discharge of their duties in that respect. He said that the northern taluks in particular suffered badly in the matter of means of communication.

In regard to the needs of his taluk, the Member prayed that the following works be attended to:—

- (1) Construction of bridges on the Tiruvalla-Mavelikara road.
- (2) Improvement of the Tiruvalla-Itinjilam road.
- (3) Improvement of the Puliur-Mannar village road.
- (4) Improvement of the road from Chengannur to Pandanad.

With reference to the Land Revenue Department, the Member complained that lands registered prior to the original survey and improved upon and enjoyed by the holders, were being treated as *porambores*, as a result of the incorrect measurements recorded in the survey. He said that it was a known fact that the survey and settlement records did not often tally and that the surveyors and classifiers who prepared those records did so without taking the trouble to make any local verification. The result was that the people were being punished for alleged encroachments on Government land and fined heavily. He observed that registered lands bordering rivers, canals, etc., were mostly treated as *porambores*. The reason for this was that, under the demarcation rules of 1058, stones demarcating such *porambores* were planted a little into the interior of registered lands on either side so as to prevent their being washed away by water. That fact was ignored now and the whole land lying between the stones and the water line was treated as *porambores*. The Member complained that the Land Records Maintenance Department had no power to rectify such mistakes and that it was difficult to get the